



Orange County District Attorney

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sept. 15, 2000

Prosecutions Cripple International Ecstasy Drug-Smuggling Ring

SANTA ANA --- Three top-ranking members of a mobile gang known as the "The Organization" have been charged with a host of crimes pertaining to their role as one of the nation's largest distributors of the drug ecstasy.

This criminal enterprise stretches from Vancouver, Canada to Florida with stops in Seattle, Portland, San Jose, Orange County, Houston, Wisconsin, Mississippi, and Florida. The Orange County Regional Gang Enforcement Team (RGET), headed by the District Attorney's Office, has put "The Organization" out of business in Orange County by arresting the top people who operate here.

A six-month investigation nicknamed "Operation Broadsword" led to the infiltration of "The Organization" and uncovered a mobile gang that deals in murders for hire, weapons trade and trafficking of ecstasy, methamphetamine "ice" and marijuana. Members of "The Organization" who come into disfavor with the leadership are targeted for murder, as evidenced by a plot to kill associate Joe Tran in July.

Tran is responsible for the monthly distribution of more than 40,000 ecstasy tablets in Orange County and 50,000 per month in Houston. This is believed to be the biggest ecstasy operation in the county and in Houston. The murder plot was foiled when gang members hired an undercover operative to commit the murder for \$35,000 in order to take over Tran's drug business here and in Houston.

A very large ecstasy seizure in this area occurred on July 12 when one of the leaders of "The Organization," Cuc Lee, was stopped by a California Highway Patrol officer in Indio and 13,000 tablets were found in her car. Lee had flown into Orange County and conspired with defendant Trong Duy Nguyen to transport the drugs to Texas. Investigators from RGET followed the car and notified the CHP. Lee has been charged with transportation of narcotics in Riverside County and is awaiting trial there.

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Henry Hung Mai, convicted of the 1996 killing of CHP Officer Don Burt, was affiliated with this gang. While in county jail awaiting trial on the murder, Mai continued to engage in his gang activities which included a gun-running operation. Mai's best friend is a defendant in this case and the pair are suspected of running a joint counterfeiting operation. Mai was arrested for Burt's murder in Houston after he contacted an affiliate of this gang.

The Regional Gang Enforcement Team (RGET) was formed last year to investigate mobile gang members whose crimes span cities, counties and states. Local law enforcement agencies have been striving to effectively impact the broad spectrum of crimes committed such as murder, home invasion robbery, money laundering and credit card fraud. RGET is a major step forward in investigating and solving these types of cases. Other members of RGET include Orange County Sheriff's Dept., Orange County Probation Dept., Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, Calif. Dept. of Justice, and police departments of Anaheim, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Santa Ana and Westminster.

DEFENDANTS

Truong Duy Nguyen (DOB 11-18-71) has been charged with conspiracy to commit murder. He is being held in lieu of \$1 million bail. Nguyen was arrested at his Houston home.

Lan My Trieu (DOB 1-1-63) was arrested on Wednesday at her video store business located at 7011 Westminster Blvd., Westminster. She has been charged with conspiracy to murder her husband, Joe Tran. She is being held in lieu of \$1 million bail.

Loc Huu Bui (DOB 5-21-72) has been charged with aiding and abetting the possession of a silencer for mailing the device to an informant in California. Bui was arrested by RGET and Houston police on Monday as he left an underground gambling casino he owns in Houston. At the time of his arrest, police seized 100 tablets of ecstasy concealed in a vehicle fuse box inside his car. He is on federal probation for credit card fraud out of Houston and is being held in lieu of \$50,000.

Both Bui and Nguyen waived extradition and arrived in Orange County on Wednesday. Nguyen, Bui and Trieu are scheduled to be arraigned today at 1:30 p.m. in the Central Justice Center.

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